

Lovett-Barnard House
2211 Lake Drive, S.E.
East Grand Rapids
Kent County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-259

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PHOTOCOPIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LOVETT-BARNARD HOUSE

HABS No. MI-259

Location: 2211 Lake Drive, S.E., East Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan.

Present Use: Demolished August, 1963 to make way for a baseball field, despite vigorous protest by local residents and the A.I.A. Committee. (This report was written before the demolition).

Significance: The house was the finest example of the ten or more river stone houses in the Gothic Revival style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1851.
2. Architect: Probably designed by George S. Lovett, who was an engineer. He was purported to have constructed the village's third bridge spanning Grand River, in 1858. He also served as the house's builder.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is incomplete chain of title:

1851	George S. Lovett
1863	Dr. Stephen Barnard
?	West Michigan Catholic Diocese
1922-1963	East Grand Rapids School Board
4. Alterations and additions: The house was altered by the School Board to adapt for use as a kindergarten in ca. 1923. Closet partitions were removed, a toilet room was installed in the northwest corner on the second floor, and a fire-escape was added at the west window on the second floor. Heating and lighting were also installed. Also, the School Board built the original East Grand Rapids High School in the same property in ca. 1923.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Decorative Gothic Revival trim; intersecting gables; hipped roof; porches; native river limestone walls.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 37' x 48' plus porches; rectangular layout with two porches; 2 stories plus basement.
2. Foundations: Limestone rubble 30" thick.
3. Walls: Limestone walls, from bed of Grand River. Random ashlar with tooled joints. Thickness 12" to 14" in two stories. Color, gray thru buff. Window sills and lintels and arch voussoirs at the doorways are also limestone.
4. Structural system, framing: The roof is framed with 3" x 4" rafters which are supported midway of span on two 10" x 10" wood girders (single length) running north and south. The girders are carried on peaks of the north and south stone gables and interior partitions. The floors are wood joists spanning north and south.
5. Porches: The porches are supported by 11" x 11" solid white pine posts carried on two brick piers. Cap and base molds are applied to the posts. Porch floors are wood. Ornamental pierced frieze is 3/4" thick, applied to the exterior of the posts.
6. Chimneys: One chimney of brick with two flues.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The east entrance door with sidelights and paneled jambs originally had a multi-glazed door. Same kind of door was used on the east side of the south elevation, but had no sidelights. The west door has two ornamental raised panels. All doorways are finished on the top with arch voussoirs.
 - b. Windows: All windows are double-hung except the bay window on the second floor east elevation. Five second story windows are Gothic arches and have lunettes with false louvers. Louvered shutters are used on the first floor door-length windows.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hipped roof with six intersecting gables. They were originally sheathed with wood shingles; asphalt shingles are now used.
 - b. Cornice: The main cornice is supported by bandsawed brackets, approximately 30" cc. The six gables have ornamental Gothic Revival vergeboards 1-1/2" thick.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: A central hall plan is used. In the right side there are a dining room, a small space, and a kitchen. To the left is the living room with the house's only fireplace. In the second floor, two bedrooms are on either side, and a central front bedroom occupies the bay window. There are also small spaces between the right-side and left-side bedrooms. A stairhall has connecting points to all of the bedrooms.
2. Stairways: The main stairway has a walnut rail, a heavy newell and simple spindles but has no newell in the second floor. It is built on the north wall of the stairhall. A smaller stair leading to the attic is between the two right-side bedrooms, accessible by a door. It has 12" risers and 7" treads.
3. Flooring: Wood floors in the first and second floors.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Unadorned plaster walls on wood lath. (Ceilings were not recorded).
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Four main doorways on the first floor have 8" wide eared casings. All other doorways and those in the second floor have simple casings. The doors are two-vertical paneled.
 - b. Windows: All windows, like the four main first floor doorways, have eared casings.
6. Decorative features and trim: The fireplace mantel is simple with a brick facing and hearth and a molded wood shelf. There are baseboards in the first and second floors; those in the second floor have molded backband casings.
7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: The house has only one fireplace, located in the living room. Presently central warm-air furnace.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house was formerly a part of a farm owned by George S. Lovett, and was built on the highest ground facing Reeds Lake in a beautiful grove of oak trees. Its Old Bedford Road address was the old post road to Detroit. An original stone wall was along the south line; an arched and roofed gateway of stone is still intact.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Property records. Place of repository not indicated. It is suggested that the records may be at the Kent County clerk's office.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Baxter. History of Grand Rapids. New York: Munsell and Company, 1891.

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Buildings Survey (HABS)
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